



## MDOC EMPLOYEES SUPPORT SUCCESSFUL HARVEST GATHERING

The Michigan Harvest Gathering has been a great success once again. Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) employees stepped up with fund-raising activities, food drives, and a variety of unique events to help support local food banks throughout the state.

Department wide, employees donated over 15,000 food items and nearly \$11,000 to 30 local food banks. In turn, those food banks will convert cash donations to food items and distribute the items to those in need throughout the communities they serve. Brooks/West Shoreline correctional facilities donated over 2,500 pounds of food, while Macomb Correctional Facility donated \$1,753 toward the effort.

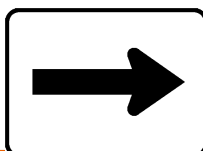
The Department used a point-based system to determine which office/facility donated the most items per person. For the second straight year, the Shiawassee County Parole/Probation Office won the traveling "Food Fight" trophy with an average of 442 points per employee. The Muskegon Probation Office took second place with a per employee total of 318 points while the Outstate/EMC Office took third place with 197 points per employee. Points were earned by donating money, boxed and canned foods, toiletry items, and high protein foods like peanut butter, and canned meats (which were given a higher point value).

Shiawassee County Parole/Probation employees all got involved in trying to do their best for the Harvest Gathering. They had three school spirit themed casual days during the two weeks of the Harvest Gathering campaign. With the casual day monies collected, they purchased "special items" that had higher point values. All other items were brought in by individuals; lots of canned meats, peanut butter, Hamburger Helper meals, and toiletries.

The Shiawassee County Parole/Probation Office employees pictured below include: Debbie Talbot, Heidi Rolfe, Andy Zeeman, Sandra Neufer, Meredith Thompson, Dawn Lucas, Lyman Martin, Alan Witte and Kim Eisenbeis.



For more  
Harvest Gathering  
pictures, please  
see page 7.



### Inside This Issue:

National Awards.....	2
Budget Solutions.....	3
Honor Guard Celebration.....	3
MCA Winter Conference.....	3
Quitter's Corner .....	4
For the Health of It.....	4
A Different Perspective .....	5
ACA Seeks Best in Business....	5
People Make the Difference .....	6



## RETIRED EMPLOYEES NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR WORK

Retired Director Ken McGinnis and retired Warden Luella Burke have been nationally recognized for their contributions to the field of corrections.

At the Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) summer meeting in August, retired Director McGinnis received the Louie Wainwright Award, given to correctional administrators who have consistently supported and advanced professionalism in the field of corrections. McGinnis served as the Director of the Illinois Department of Corrections prior to serving in the same post in Michigan. He was instrumental in bringing many changes to Michigan's correctional system including revamping the parole board, increasing funding for community-based programming, and leading the fight to limit prisoner property inside institutions. Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) Director and ASCA Vice-President Patricia L. Caruso provided commentary on McGinnis' work and tireless pursuit of professionalism within the MDOC. For his part, retired Director McGinnis was surprised and proud to be recognized for his accomplishments. ASCA Associate Louie Wainwright personally presented McGinnis with the award, an engraved Waterford Crystal bowl.



Retired MDOC Director Kenneth McGinnis accepts the Louie Wainwright Award.

Retired Warden Luella Burke was recognized by the Association of Women Executives in Corrections (AWEC) as the 2008 recipient of the Susan B. Hunter Award. After retiring from the MDOC, Luella continued her long-held career focus of developing other women as correctional leaders, the basic criteria Susan Hunter established to identify award recipients.



Retired Warden Luella Burke (at right) and Director Patricia L. Caruso.

Luella's accomplishments have touched many women on a national scale and her influence in Michigan has been invaluable. To better appreciate the value of her contribution, consider the words of Perry Johnson, retired MDOC Director: "...the Michigan Corrections Department removed its 'male only' gender restrictions in the early 1970s which began a rocky and turbulent period. Recognizing that women new to the field would benefit from networking, Luella initiated a series of meetings throughout the state inviting women to meet away from the workplace and share information and experiences."

Her 30-plus years in corrections included 25 for the State of Michigan, eleven of those years as warden; one year as a private-sector warden; three-plus years as AWEC's executive director; a community college instructor and correctional consultant. Two Michigan governors appointed Luella to the Michigan Correctional Officers Training Council. In addition, Luella has served as the president of the North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents (NAAWS) and is currently serving as Chair of the NAAWS Board of Directors. MDOC Director Patricia L. Caruso, who sponsored Luella's nomination, wrote: "It is no exaggeration to say that I truly consider Luella Burke to be one of the most significant reasons for my own success in this department. Her mentoring and support have been unflinching. I know the same support I have received from Luella has been generously given to women in Michigan and around the country."





## MDOC NEEDS YOUR HELP TO FIND BUDGET SOLUTIONS

The State of Michigan is facing another tight budget year. It is becoming more likely that Governor Jennifer M. Granholm will release an Executive Order instructing state agencies to reduce their budgets. The Michigan Department of Corrections is not immune to that likely order.

Because of the economic downturn in Michigan, it is expected that all departments will see reductions in budgetary resources this year. While there are currently no estimates about what the size of that cuts may be, it is likely to affect operations throughout many state agencies.

Since 2002, the MDOC has saved over \$550 million as a result of prudent spending, budgetary cuts, realignment of resources, prison closures, consolidation, and regionalization. Spending cuts are likely to continue through FY 2010.

The Department is asking for your help to find sensible budget reduction solutions that protect our operational goals and maintain public safety. Employee suggestions have been enacted with significant savings in the past and employee input results in more tenable solutions for all affected parties. It appears that this round of budget reductions will affect nearly everyone in some way.



If you have suggestions about how to reduce the MDOC budget, please send them to:

Lance Schuhmacher  
Michigan Department of Corrections  
2nd Floor Grandview Plaza  
P.O. Box 30003  
Lansing, MI 48909

or e-mail: [SchuhmLS@michigan.gov](mailto:SchuhmLS@michigan.gov)

## UPDATE: HONOR GUARD FUND-RAISER MOVED TO DECEMBER 12, 2008

The Honor Guard has been forced to move their annual celebratory fund-raiser to December 12, 2008 from 6 p.m. until midnight at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. The evening will include a short recognition ceremony, dinner, a DJ and silent auction. So far, items to be auctioned include a tactical flashlight, an assortment of bird feeders, Hank Aaron and Willie Mays baseball cards, a back massager, a maple syrup gift basket, Honor Guard hoodies, and restaurant gift certificates. Many more items will also be auctioned off. If you are interested in attending the event, please contact Lindsay Simmon at [simmons@michigan.gov](mailto:simmons@michigan.gov) or 517-335-1407.

## MCA CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON CRYSTAL METH AND CYBERCRIME

The Michigan Corrections Association is having a mid-winter conference on January 23, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Michigan State Police Academy. Topics will include the fight against crystal methamphetamine and protecting against cybercrime. This is a "must attend" for anyone who is concerned about drug issues in the community or about protecting themselves against cybercrime.



MCA's annual business meeting will be immediately after the conference. The association bylaws will be ratified and the new executive board will be formally introduced.

Please contact Rachel Johnson at [johnsor@michigan.gov](mailto:johnsor@michigan.gov) for more information or go to the MCA website for a registration form:

<http://micorrections.org/calendar.php>





## QUITTER'S CORNER



Rosanne Leland, MDOC's Work/Life Services Coordinator, recently interviewed Officer Fill of the West Shoreline Correctional Facility (MTF):

**F.Y.I.:** When did you go tobacco free?

**Fill:** "December 29, 2003. I had stopped smoking for 18 years and started again."



**F.Y.I.:** How long did you use tobacco products?

**Fill:** "Since I was nineteen years old. I was in the United States Marine Corps at the time."

**F.Y.I.:** Why did you go tobacco free?

**Fill:** "My granddaughter was 5 years old at the time, and I realized it was time to stop because I wanted to spend quality time with her. Now I have ten grandchildren, they are my incentive. Also, the money situation really got to me. It was so expensive to buy cigarettes."

**F.Y.I.:** What situations were most difficult for you to stop smoking?

**Fill:** "After an evening meal and when I went to the bar."

**F.Y.I.:** What/who helped you quit?

**Fill:** "I got involved in woodworking. It kept my mind off smoking."

**F.Y.I.:** What is a message for your co-workers who are trying to quit?

**Fill:** "You will win the war!! Each success includes winning the battle. Work through your desire to smoke...if I just waited 20 seconds, the desire to smoke would go away. Do something to get rid of the desire, take your mind off of thinking about smoking. If you have a relapse, don't beat yourself up over it. Remember to be kind to yourself."

"You choose the way you live your life. There are good consequences and bad consequences. Everyone has a choice if they want to be healthy or not. You have to be personally ready to quit. When you decide what plan works for you, stick with it!"

## FOR THE HEALTH OF IT: ACTIVE FOR LIFE

Lakeland Correctional Facility recently participated in the 'Active for Life' contest. The facility had 178 people sign up and most participated on some level. Two employees who embraced the challenge shared their stories.

Mike Gallop, Special Activities Director for Florence Crane Correctional Facility/Camp Branch, reflected on the program. "When the 'Active for Life' program began, I knew it was time for me to get back into a healthy lifestyle, especially since my doctor has been challenging me to reduce my high cholesterol level the past 2 years. I joined a team and began a workout routine that consists of moderate weight training Sunday through Thursday mornings and running 1.6 miles three times per week. As a result, I dropped 10 lbs. of flab and 2 inches from my waist and my last physical had positive observations. My bad cholesterol has dropped 30 points, my doctor is pleased, and I feel a lot better."

Captain Christopher Barker of Lakeland Correctional Facility shared the following thoughts. "Life is about how we handle challenges that are placed in front of us. Participation in the 'Active for Life' challenge gives people an opportunity to respond to a challenge of living better and healthier lives. If anything at all, it helps us refocus on the things in our life that are the most important. We lead by example and by doing so, I think it helped impact others around us. We didn't get unhealthy overnight. It makes people realize that becoming healthier is a lifestyle choice that takes time."

For information about starting an Active for Life program at your workplace please contact Deputy Hoffner at Lake Correctional Facility by phone at 517-278-6942 ext. 308 or by e-mail at [HOFFNEBJ@michigan.gov](mailto:HOFFNEBJ@michigan.gov).





## A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

BY JOHN C. CORDELL



Different perspectives come from a variety of viewpoints. I generally get ideas from something I have experienced, or based on something that someone else has experienced that I find value in. When I first started writing this “column,” for lack of a better term, I thought it would be infrequent at best. However, response from those who read it has been overwhelmingly positive, with comments like, “It’s the first thing I read,” and “I can’t wait for the next one.” I appreciate the feedback, I am humbled by it, and I am pleased that people get the message, or at least think about the message and how they might apply it to their own life.

That said, it is important to recognize the many people out there who have a “Different Perspective” they are willing to share. I don’t have a monopoly on life’s lessons and certainly don’t even pretend to have many of the answers, so I want your thoughts about how we can challenge others to think differently. I want to hear from you about how we can make each other a little better, a little stronger, a little more compassionate, and a little more giving.

Send your “Different Perspective” to me and let yourself be heard. Make it valuable to others, and make it printable. Challenge negativity with optimism and share your perspective with the rest of our corrections community. Please send your articles to: [cordelj@corrections.michigan.gov](mailto:cordelj@corrections.michigan.gov). I will review them and try to get as many perspectives as possible into FYI.

Thanks for your interest and your commitment to making yourself and each other a little better each day.

## ACA SEEKS BEST IN THE BUSINESS

Each year, the American Correctional Association (ACA) devotes an issue of *Corrections Today* to recognizing corrections’ best — award winners, heroes, volunteers, employees of the year and others. Many of these individuals have been honored by their facilities or state departments of correction for heroic actions or simply for years of outstanding service. The Michigan Department of Corrections has been well represented in the past, but would like to see more of our employees recognized for their outstanding contributions to the field of corrections.

ACA needs our input to make the June 2009 Best in the Business issue a true representation of corrections’ finest. If you know someone who has presented an award or honor to an agency member in the past year, please let ACA know. Submit the names, titles, facilities, or agencies, and awards for the individuals that have been honored during this past year. A list of MDOC award winners will be printed in the June 2009 issue.

**The submission deadline is December 28, 2008.** Please send submissions to Jeannelle Ferreira, ACA, 206 N. Washington St., Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22314; fax (703) 224-0179; [jeannellef@aca.org](mailto:jeannellef@aca.org).





## PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



### ADRIAN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES STAFF RAISE THE ROOF FOR FALLEN COMRADE

On August 5, 2008, staff at the Gus Harrison Correctional Facility lost one of their own when Sgt. Gary Whisman suddenly passed away. Gary started his career as a Corrections Officer at the Huron Valley Correctional Facility in March of 1989. Gary worked as both a Corrections Officer and a Resident Unit Officer (RUO) prior to promoting to a Sergeant in April of 1998. Gary was well liked, respected and a true leader by all he had contact with. He will be tremendously missed by our staff.

Prior to Gary's unexpected passing, he had scheduled materials to be delivered to his home on for a new metal roof. To ensure the new roof was installed, current and previous staff members of the Adrian Correctional facilities pooled their resources and proceeded to take up a collection of \$1,052 for the Whisman family donate their time and resources to complete the roof.



Facility staff set their "Raise the Roof" plan into motion and on October 5, 2008, the project was completed with great pride by the staff of the Adrian correctional facilities.



Special "thanks" go out to Gary's cousin who provided general contractor services, and to those who helped with job and as well as those who donated ladders, power tools, and food for the volunteers. Their efforts contributed to the huge success of the "Raise the Roof" project. Everyone who participated felt their friend shining down on them that warm, October day.

Scott Rich, a Public Works Supervisor from Camp Lehman, was recently presented with an award from Camp Grayling Military Base where he and his Public Works crew were instrumental in developing and completing numerous projects at the military base. He was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from Major Bernard Peters. An excerpt from the Certificate states:

*"Through your leadership and vision, the improvements to the Convoy Commander's Reaction Course have made it one of the best in the Nation. Your dedication to our mission has made you an integral part of the success of Operations and Range Control and the Joint Maneuver Training Center."*

Congratulations go out to Officer Rich and his work crew for all of their hard work and a job well done!





## PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



### HARVEST GATHERING PICTURES



**Above:** Carolana Gordon and Brittany Enszer of Standish Maximum Correctional Facility display their collected items.

**Right:** Chippewa Correctional Facility auctioned off this painted pumpkin and used proceeds to donate toward food for Harvest gathering.

**Below:** Mitch Perry of Newberry Correctional Facility shows off their haul.



**Above:** Macomb Correctional Facility looks over the top of a huge stack of donated food. They donated the second highest food total in terms of total pounds.

**Below:** Pugsley Correctional Facility fills boxes with food for those in need.



These pictures represent only a small sample of the total donations collected by facilities and offices statewide. Employees who contributed time, money and food and toiletry items can be proud that their efforts are going toward helping those less fortunate than so many of us. Charitable giving is a valuable outreach effort that benefits both the giver and the receiver in so many ways. The Harvest Gathering campaign is just another way that MDOC employees show they care. Job well done!!

